

IN THE CLAIMS

1. (Previously Presented) A foam cushion tape for flexographic printing, comprising
a compressible polyurethane foam layer having a first side and an opposite second side;
a composite reinforcing film comprising
a reinforcing layer selected from the group consisting of polyethylene terephthalate, polybutylene terephthalate, polyvinyl, polycarbonate, and polyetherimide and having a first side and an opposite second side; and
a polymer layer selected from the group consisting of polyvinylidene chloride, copolyester and nylon, the polymer layer having a first side and an opposite second side, wherein the first side of the polymer layer is disposed on the first side of the reinforcing layer, and further wherein the second side of the polyurethane foam is disposed on the second side of the polymer layer of the composite reinforcing film;
a first adhesive disposed on the first side of the compressible polyurethane foam;
and
a second adhesive disposed on the second side of the reinforcing layer of the composite reinforcing film.
2. (Original) The tape of claim 1, wherein the compressible polyurethane foam has a thickness of about 5 to about 60 mils (about 125 to about 1500 micrometers).
3. (Original) The tape of claim 1, wherein the compressible polyurethane foam has a thickness of about 12 to about 17 mils (about 300 to about 425 micrometers).
4. (Original) The tape of claim 1, wherein the foam is open-celled.
5. (Canceled)

6. (Previously Presented) The tape of claim 1, wherein the polymer layer comprises polyvinylidene chloride and the reinforcing layer comprises polyethylene terephthalate.
7. (Original) The tape of claim 1, wherein the composite reinforcing film is formed by co-extrusion of the polymer layer and the reinforcing layer.
8. (Original) The tape of claim 1, wherein the reinforcing layer is acid etched.
9. (Original) The tape of claim 1, further comprising a primer layer between the first adhesive and the polyurethane foam.
10. (Original) The tape of claim 1, further comprising a release layer disposed on a side of the second adhesive layer opposite to the reinforcing layer.
11. (Original) The tape of claim 10, wherein the release layer comprises a release coating, an intermediate layer, and a liner, wherein the release coating is disposed on the second adhesive layer on a side opposite to the reinforcing layer, the intermediate layer is disposed on the release coating on a side opposite to the second adhesive layer, and the liner is disposed on the intermediate layer on a side opposite to the release coating.
12. (Original) The tape of claim 11, wherein the release coating further comprises a second intermediate layer disposed on the liner on a side opposite to the intermediate layer, and a second release coating disposed on the second intermediate layer on a side opposite to the liner.

13. (Previously presented) A foam cushion tape for flexographic printing, comprising

a compressible, open-celled polyurethane foam layer having a first side and an opposite second side, wherein the compressible polyurethane foam has a thickness of about 5 to about 60 mils (about 125 to about 1500 micrometers);

a composite reinforcing film layer configured to reinforce the compressible foam layer, and comprising

a reinforcing layer selected from the group consisting of polyethylene terephthalate, polybutylene terephthalate, polyvinyl, polycarbonate, and polyetherimide, and having a first side and an opposite second side, and

a polymer layer selected from the group consisting of nylon, copolyester, and polyvinylidene chloride, and having a first side and an opposite second side, wherein the first side of the polymer layer is disposed on the first side of the reinforcing layer, and the second side of the polyurethane foam is disposed on the polymer layer of the composite reinforcing film;

a first pressure sensitive adhesive disposed on the first side of the compressible polyurethane foam; and

a second pressure sensitive adhesive disposed on the second side of the reinforcing layer of the composite reinforcing film.

14. (Original) The tape of claim 13, further comprising a release layer disposed on a side of the second adhesive layer opposite to the reinforcing layer.

15. (Original) The tape of claim 14, wherein the release layer comprises a release coating, an intermediate layer, and a liner, wherein the release coating is disposed on the second adhesive layer on a side opposite to the reinforcing layer, the intermediate layer is disposed on the release coating on a side opposite to the second adhesive layer, and the liner is disposed on the intermediate layer on a side opposite to the release coating.

16. (Original) The tape of claim 15, wherein the release coating further comprises a second intermediate layer disposed on the liner on a side opposite to the intermediate layer, and a second release coating disposed on the second intermediate layer on a side opposite to the liner.

17. (Previously Presented) A foam cushion tape for flexographic printing, comprising

a compressible, open-celled polyurethane foam layer having a first side and an opposite second side, wherein the compressible polyurethane foam has a thickness of about 5 to about 60 mils;

a composite reinforcing film comprising

a polymer layer comprising polyvinylidene chloride, said polymer layer having a first side and a second side, and

a polyethylene terephthalate reinforcing layer having a first side and a second side,

wherein the first side of the polymer layer is disposed on the first side of the reinforcing layer, and further wherein the second side of the polyurethane foam is disposed on the first side of the polymer layer of the composite reinforcing film;

a first pressure sensitive adhesive disposed on the first side of the compressible polyurethane foam; and

a second pressure sensitive adhesive disposed on the second side of the reinforcing layer of the composite reinforcing film.

18. (Original) The tape of claim 17, further comprising a release layer disposed on a side of the second adhesive layer opposite to the reinforcing layer, wherein the release layer comprises a release coating, an intermediate layer, and a liner, wherein the release coating is disposed on the second adhesive layer on a side opposite to the reinforcing layer, the intermediate layer is disposed on the release coating on a side opposite to the second adhesive layer, and the liner is disposed on the intermediate layer on a side opposite to the release coating.

19. (Original) The tape of claim 18, wherein the release coating further comprises a second intermediate layer disposed on the liner on a side opposite to the intermediate layer, and a second release coating disposed on the second intermediate layer on a side opposite to the liner.

20-33. (Canceled)

34. (Previously Presented) The tape of claim 1, wherein the polymer layer is a polyvinylidene chloride or a copolyester and the reinforcing layer is a polyethylene terephthalate or polybutylene terephthalate.

35. (Previously Presented) The tape of claim 34, wherein the composite reinforcing film is formed by co-extrusion of the polymer layer and the reinforcing layer.

36. (Previously Presented) The tape of claim 13, wherein the polymer layer is a polyvinylidene chloride or a copolyester and the reinforcing layer is a polyethylene terephthalate or polybutylene terephthalate.

37. (Previously Presented) The tape of claim 36, wherein the composite reinforcing film is formed by co-extrusion of the polymer layer and the reinforcing layer.

38. (Previously Presented) A foam cushion tape for flexographic printing, comprising
- a compressible polyurethane foam layer having a first side and an opposite second side; and
 - a composite reinforcing film comprising
 - a polyethylene terephthalate reinforcing layer having a first side and an opposite second side; and
 - a copolyester polymer layer, the copolyester polymer layer having a first side and an opposite second side,
- wherein the first side of the copolyester polymer layer is disposed on the first side of the reinforcing layer, and further wherein the second side of the polyurethane foam is disposed on the second side of the copolyester polymer layer of the composite reinforcing film;
- a first adhesive disposed on the first side of the compressible polyurethane foam;
- and
- a second adhesive disposed on the second side of the reinforcing layer of the composite reinforcing film.
39. (Previously Presented) The tape of claim 1, wherein the composite reinforcing film is co-extruded.
40. (New) The tape of claim 38, wherein the compressible polyurethane foam has a thickness of about 5 to about 60 mils (about 125 to about 1500 micrometers).
41. (New) The tape of claim 38, wherein the compressible polyurethane foam has a thickness of about 12 to about 17 mils (about 300 to about 425 micrometers).
42. (New) The tape of claim 38, wherein the foam is open-celled.
43. (New) The tape of claim 38, wherein the composite reinforcing film is formed by co-extrusion of the polymer layer and the reinforcing layer.

44. (New) The tape of claim 38, wherein the reinforcing layer is acid etched.
45. (New) The tape of claim 38, further comprising a primer layer between the first adhesive and the polyurethane foam.
46. (New) The tape of claim 38, further comprising a release layer disposed on a side of the second adhesive layer opposite to the reinforcing layer.
47. (New) The tape of claim 46, wherein the release layer comprises a release coating, an intermediate layer, and a liner, wherein the release coating is disposed on the second adhesive layer on a side opposite to the reinforcing layer, the intermediate layer is disposed on the release coating on a side opposite to the second adhesive layer, and the liner is disposed on the intermediate layer on a side opposite to the release coating.
48. (New) The tape of claim 47, wherein the release coating further comprises a second intermediate layer disposed on the liner on a side opposite to the intermediate layer, and a second release coating disposed on the second intermediate layer on a side opposite to the liner.
49. (New) The tape of claim 38, wherein the composite reinforcing film is co-extruded.